

# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



**E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 8

NOVEMBER 2019



**JOSEPH MUSCAT, PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA,  
WITH HIS WIFE AND TWIN DAUGHTERS  
AT THE MALTESE CENTRE NYC, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>  
(see also page 17)**

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



**Dan Brock**

This journal is evolving beyond my wildest dreams! What I hoped would be a 24-page bi-monthly journal is now a monthly which matches or surpassed that number of pages. This month's issue grew to 24 pages.

What I had envisioned as reaching a few hundred individuals electronically is probably reaching one thousand. Each month, I continue to be impressed by the individuals worldline who have received the journal from an acquaintance and in turn contacted me so that they can receive their copies directly.

Even more so, I'm both impressed and honoured that I was asked to forward copies of the journal, electronically, to the various heads of missions, consul generals, etc. worldwide of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta.

Dennis Simmons of San Francisco, thanks to the efforts of his wife, Evelyn, who was born into the Maltese community of Port Colborne, Ontario, has uploaded all the issues of *The Maltese Presence in North America*, as well as the current "Table of Contents" onto the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco. Start by going to <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>.

As well as learning what is happening within the large Maltese American community in the Bay Area, you will also have access to the back issues of that great, weekly Maltese E-Newsletter *The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora* published in Australia. It was this

newsletter which was one of the inspirations and spurs for the present journal intended to serve all the Maltese of North America.

Moreover, individuals have undertaken to have copies printed and distributed to relatives and friends, especially those not having access to computers or who find it easier to read hard copies. I know for a fact that 7,600 copies of the October issue were printed off and distributed in the Greater Toronto Area alone!

Speaking of the GTA, if it appears that it is receiving a disproportionate amount of space in this journal in the last two issues, I can only say that I receive material from individuals and organizations from the GTA on an almost daily basis and a lot is happening in the Area.

I encourage individuals and associations in other regions to send me news of what is happening in your area. Some of you do and I sincerely thank you for this. In some cases, I have gone to your web sites and Facebook pages for information. Some of the organizations in North America don't seem to have any events taking place from one month to the other and some don't even appear to have a web site.

I also encourage organizations to send me their newsletters, either electronically or by regular mail. Some of you are doing this and I'm indebted to you for this. You will recognize that I have copied information and even notices and posters from these.

On the back cover (page 24) is an expanded list of the various Maltese organizations in North America over what appeared in the October issue. If there are any errors or omissions, kindly bring them to my attention.

There are many individuals who have contributed to the content of this issue in one way or another. To each I'm most indebted for your part in making this issue what it is. At the risk of missing some names, and therefore my sincere apologies, I

would like to make mention of these contributors: Claudia Caruana, Mark Caruana, Richard S. Cumbo, Esther LeBlanc, Fr. Mario Micallef, Brian Muscat, Mona Vella Nicholas, Joe Scerri, Sue Schembri, Dr. Raymond Xerri, Rena Xuereb and both the late Henry E. Leeks and late Frank Savona.

Again, you are encouraged to pass this journal along to others to whom it might be of interest.

I also urge you to send me material for our journal, be it events in your community, personal stories, etc.

You can reach me at [dbrock40@worldline.ca](mailto:dbrock40@worldline.ca) and, if necessary, I can provide you with my address and telephone number if needed

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## GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

### PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



*Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese national parish in North America. These "Pastor's thoughts..." are extracts from his commentaries on the Sunday readings which are published in the Parish's Sunday Bulletin.*

#### Do Rich People Go to Heaven?

I heard someone ask this question once, apparently sparked by the importance the gospel seems to give to the poor. Before going any further, it's important to remind ourselves from the beginning that nobody, absolutely nobody, is denied the possibility to go to heaven. [A] passport to heaven is not based on social status or one's bank account. What matters is what we do with what we got....

Sometimes we might think that to hate someone is the worst evil we can do. I strongly believe that indifference is worse than hatred! When you hate someone, you are at least acknowledging that person's existence, giving him some importance in your life. When you are indifferent to someone, on the other hand, it is as if that person didn't even exist for you. You are depriving him not only of love and attention, but even from the very right to exist! Like the rich person in the [gospel] parable, you would be closing yourself up in your own mansion, totally oblivious to the other person at your doorstep.

Indeed, the problem is not money or riches. The real question is, "What do I do with what I have?" do I lock myself up in my own little mansion? Or do I use what has been given to me to help others?

#### A True Follower of Jesus

....A true follower of Jesus does nothing because he is forced, simply out of obedience or because it is his duty. This brings no joy. Everything a true follower of

Christ does is done out of love, because that is what Jesus did. St. Paul, the strict pharisee who eventually met Jesus on that fateful day on the road to Damascus, could reflect and compare his past and present life, the "old" and the "new" man, life under the law and life under the Spirit. Only the latter brought Paul life and happiness.

#### True Healing

The healed leper [in St. Luke's gospel] did not continue on his way [after being healed]. The most important thing for him now is to return to the one who gave him back his life. This is what real faith is all about. It is not merely doing what one is expected to do by law. It is a desire to encounter Jesus acknowledging that what is good comes from Him. This encounter with Jesus becomes more important than anything else. No wonder that, in the end, Jesus tells him that now he can go on his way: "Your faith has made you well."

True healing is not just the healing of bodily illness. It is a constant return to Jesus, an acknowledgement that only He can give us the fullness of life that we all desire.

#### Prayer Is My Relationship with God

....When we talk about prayer we are not merely referring to the formal prayers which we learn by heart. It is a way of living, an attitude which we develop in our life. Prayer is my relationship with God. Like any other loving relationship, it is not merely made up of formal petitions of beautiful talk. It is, rather, being there for and with the other. It is having the other constantly present in one's mind and heart. Like any other relationship, it either grows or dies out as time goes by. It's a dynamic relationship, and never stays the same. When Paul, in one of his letters to the Thessalonians, tells us to "pray without ceasing," he is not telling us to be constantly on our knees, or in church, or reading our prayer books 24 hours a day! He is, rather, urging us to enter into his loving relationship with God, to never give up even when the "other" seems silent or aloof, or perhaps when our well seems to have run dry.

**Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, Pastor**  
**Fr. Ivano Burdian, MSSP, Associate**  
**St. Paul the Apostle Church,**  
**3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3**  
**1-416-767-7054**  
**email: [stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)**  
**website: [www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)**

## MORE NEWS REGARDING THE FORMER MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO

**Richard S. Cumbo**

In 2000 the Society was located on the east side of Medland Street just south of Dundas Street West in the building formerly owned by the Malta Band Club.



**The Miss Malta Display  
when the Society Was at 235 Medland Street.  
The Silver-Plated Annual Miss Malta trophy  
(to my right)  
Was Donated by the Late Joseph Vassallo,  
a Son of One of the Society's Founders**

While in Malta, on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, I donated the former Society's flag to the Migrants Museum in Valletta. A replica of this newer flag was earlier given to the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives in Toronto.



**Standing in Mon. Calleja's office,  
at the Malta Emigrants Commission.  
(l to r) Frans Vella, One of the Volunteers at the  
Migrants Museum, Mon. Philip Calleja, Age 90,  
and Myself.**

The original M.C.S.T. flag of 1927 was donated a few years ago by the then President Raymond Borg to the Migrants Museum.

### READER COMMENTS

I like most of your very interesting articles. I really don't have a preference to which articles I like most.

Tony Cassar, Vancouver, BC

I have just read the October newsletter of *The Maltese Presence in North America*. I enjoyed the articles and reading about the Maltese culture.

Mike Andrews

Dear Dan, congratulations on your publication. We at the Voice realise that it is not possible to have a magazine/newsletter that can serve/reach all the diaspora.

We value our co-operation and trust that it can continue.

Lawrence Dimech, editor The Voice of the Maltese,  
Australia

I learnt of this journal through a colleague of mine who lately was in Canada covering the Maltese Prime Minister's visit over there. He met Mr Ray Xerri who introduced him to the newsletter.

Mario Xuereb, Malta

### LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

#### OMNI 1 Southern Ontario

Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Mondays 3:30 a.m.

Tuesdays 11.30 a.m.

Wednesdays 11:00 p.m.

Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

#### OMNI British Columbia/Pacific

Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

#### OMNI Alberta/Prairies

Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

**Dr Raymond C. Xerri  
Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada  
3280 Bloor Street West  
Centre Tower, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 1060  
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2X3  
CANADA  
TEL: 001 (416) 207 0922, 207 0989  
Fax: 001 (416) 207-0986  
E-Mail: raymond.c.xerri@gov.mt**

## COCKTAIL RECEPTION HELD FOR PRIME MINISTER AND HIS DELEGATION

**Dan Brock**

A cocktail reception, hosted by the Consul General of the Republic of Malta in Canada, was held on the evening of Friday, September 27, in honour of the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Joseph Muscat, and his delegation. The event took place at the Le Tréport Wedding and Convention Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.



**The Façade of Le Tréport**

Hundreds took advantage of this opportunity to meet and greet the Prime Minister, his wife Michelle, Carmelo Abela the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Chris Cardona the Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, Byron Camilleri the Government Whip, Keith Azzopardi the Ambassador of Malta to the United States and High Commissioner of Malta to Canada and, of course, Dr. Raymond Xerri the popular Consul General of Malta in Canada.



**Hundreds Lined Up to Meet and Greet the Prime Minister and His Delegation**

Later, Dr. Raymond Xerri introduced the delegation and the Prime Minister. Each member of the delegation gave a short speech.



**Carmelo Abela, Flanked by Keith Azzopardi, Byron Camilleri and Raymond Xerri (behind the Prime Minister) on One side and Prime Minister Muscat, Mrs. Muscat and Chris Cardona on the Other**



**Keith Azzopardi, Flanked by Byron Camilleri (behind the Consul General) and Raymond Xerri on one side and Prime Minister Muscat and Mrs. Muscat on the Other**



**Dr. Raymond Xerri Introduces the Prime Minister of Malta**



**Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta, with Keith Azzopardi, Byron Camilleri and Raymond Xerri Behind Him**

After the speeches, seven-year-old Romeo Bonello presented Mrs. Muscat with flowers and Joe Scerri, President of the Maltese Canadian Federation, presented the Prime Minister with a picture of Toronto's skyline.

Among those present were representatives from the nine Maltese associations in the Greater Toronto Area and the clubs in Durham, Hamilton and Windsor.



**Some of Those in Attendance**

## **AN EXAMINATION OF DATA FROM MALTESE BILLS OF HEALTH AND PASSPORT APPLICATIONS HELD AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA**

### **PART I**

**Mark Caruana  
Sydney, Australia**



*Editor's note: Mark Caruana is no stranger to the pages of this journal. In addition, many references have been made to his work, particularly for Canada and the United States, on passenger lists compiled at the ports of disembarkation for those of Maltese birth or blood.*

*This article introduces you to the work he has been doing on Maltese bills of health and passport applications and how, like such resources as Charles Said-Vassallo's online [maltagenealogy.com](http://maltagenealogy.com), this could help you in tracking down a long-lost relative or adding to your family research.*

*As a specific example of the usefulness of the research Mark describes in this first part, some time ago I asked him if Louis Shickluna's name might be among the 64,000 bills of health generated between 1815 and 1850. Within minutes, and from a half-world away, Mark was able to provide me with data on two bills of health possibly for the first Maltese known to have settled in Canada.*

<b>Bills of Health 1815-22</b>						
<b>ID</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Field1</b>
9865	Scicluna	Luigi	1818	Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>		
13414	Scicluna	Luigi	1821	Apr 11 <sup>th</sup>		

*I recently learned that the following could also be included.*

<b>Bills of Health 1815-22</b>						
<b>ID</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Field1</b>
8655	Xicluna	Luigi	1817	Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>		
11396	Xicluna	Luigi	1819	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>		

*This three-part article is an updated and slightly-revised reprint of that which appeared in The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter, vol. 39, no. 2 (July-August 2018, 14-18).*

### **An Overview:**

This article outlines an on-going voluntary effort by one individual, namely myself, working half way around the world from the original documents, to build, to date, a database that supports the content analysis of a collection of Maltese bills of health from 1815-50 and passport applications and renewals from 1870 to 1937. Data entries for 1938-39 are presently on-going.

It is said the bills of health and passport applications and renewals were once “*stored or dumped in the lower part of Fort St Elmo*” before being rescued and transferred to the National Archives of Malta (NAM) and that while in this fort, many were cut up and used for carnival floats for the annual *Karnival*. This may explain why the bills of health or passport applications and renewals, as the case may be, covering the years 1850-1870 and the passport applications and renewals for the years 1872-1886 are not to be found at the NAM.

What I am attempting to do is address the need of such a digital resource as the database on which I am working; the process of its development; its structure and its possible applications in research.

The work itself has taken over 10 years and is an example of an effort by a private individual. This article in a different format was first presented as an academic paper to the wider community in *New Review of Information Networking*, vol. 21, no. 1 (2016) pages 52-62 and was read at a symposium in Malta that same year. This generated database is particularly useful for anyone interested in studying the Maltese diaspora.

### The Need for a Digitalized Database

My visit to the NAM in 1999 to search for documentary material on Maltese migration to Australia led me to the realization that the NAM held a vast collection of unindexed bills of health and passport applications, stored in ledgers and pamphlet boxes, on rows of endless shelves.

I then requested photocopies of those passport applications where the destination stated was Australia. On my return to Sydney, I started entering the information as a Microsoft Access database. This work gradually developed to include all surviving Maltese bills of health and passport applications issued, as described below in the “Development and Use of the Database” section of this article.

When I finished entering these data, a new vista opened up to me of patterns of migration, such as family reunion, chain migration of persons from the same village, returned migrants, applications for a passport from a person of Maltese blood in the diaspora whose father was born in Malta, and so forth. Some names of migrants were familiar to me as I had previously done oral history interviews with a number of them. The database with this passport information enhanced and confirmed the dates given to me from oral history memories.

I restricted the data I recorded from the passport applications to a relatively simple database of 13 fields, namely passport number, date of issue of passport, surname, given name, relationship of applicant, age, occupation, date of birth, town or village of birth, current residence, destination, and a “Remarks” column. The data included applicants from Malta and its diaspora,

whether migrants, students, merchants, British service people, mariners, and other nationalities, among others.

To date, the total number of entries has reached 74,000 surviving passport applications and renewals covering a 67-year period from 1870 to 1937. The project also includes a database of 64,000 surviving bills of health (1815-50) and 4,500 seaman’s certificates. The total number of entries has now reached some 143,000 individuals.

Around the year 2004, the NAM digitized its bills of health and passport applications. Although these were now digitized, they were an unindexed resource without an aid of some sort which would allow a person to quickly search for names, locations or other data from the applications. These needed indexes for quick reference and my database met this need.

Four years later, the National archivist Dr. Charles Farrugia approved a data entry project of all digitized bills of health and passports on a Microsoft Access database. It was envisaged that the database will be fully completed by entering remaining passport data till early 1940, when the last boat to Australia left Malta immediately after the outbreak of war there. The war years made travelling a risky undertaking and very few passports were issued. Post-war passports were years of the beginning of mass migration to distant lands and they require a designated project on data entry.

### Development and Use of the Database

As already mentioned, the primary sources that were used to generate information for the database included bills of health and passport applications.

Bills of health pre-date passport applications. The first bills of health were recorded in 1815, more than 200 years ago, and were 225 in number that year, but the data entered then was very brief: name, surname, year, month, and day of application for a bill of health and some information in the remarks column. From this last entry, one gathers if the applicant were exempt from paying the fee (noted as “gratis” and this was mainly to religious persons or high-ranking authorities) and whether the applicant was the wife or the children of the principal applicant.

**Table 1.** Excerpt from the Database.

Ghio	Giuseppe	1818	27 Feb	Native of Genoa resident on this Island about to be made denizen*
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\*a foreigner allowed certain rights in the adopted country

From 1836-50, the bills of health expanded the data required and added the destination of the applicant.

Some bills of health have useful information, as when an applicant became naturalized or a citizen of the Maltese Islands, like a Ghio Giuseppe in 1818 (see

Table 1). One may surmise that the first Ghio in Malta was accepted as a Malta citizen in that year and he was from the port city of Genoa, Italy.

This additional “Remarks” entry is a very useful addition for Maltese living in its diaspora, as it identifies the name of the pioneer applicant, how many left Malta that year, to which destination, and so forth. For example, one can deduce, from the frequent family trips to Girgenti that the surname Albanese originated from Girgenti, Sicily, as multiple entries are listed for a number of Albanese applicants, whose destination invariably was Girgenti. The Albanese applicants seem to have had a respectable rank or position in society as the title Mr or Signore is added after the name.

**Table 2.** Example of Bills of Health Applicants by Surname Albanese.

1838 Bills of Health						
ID	Sur-name	Name	Year	Date	Destina-tion	Remarks
74	Albanese	Francesco	1838	Jul 4	Italy, Girgenti	
778	Albanese	Salvatore	1838	Sept 6	Italy, Girgenti	
1693	Albanese	Francesco	1838	Dec 22	Italy, Girgenti	
2665	Albanese	Giovanni	1839	Jun 3	Italy, Girgenti	
2666	Albanese	Rosa	1839	Jun 3	Italy, Girgenti	his wife
9053	Albanese	Paolo	1841	May 1	Italy, Girgenti	his son
9052	Albanese	Rosa	1841	May 1	Italy, Girgenti	his wife
9886	Albanese	Marianna	1841	Jun 22	Italy, Girgenti	his wife
14684	Albanese	Rosina	1842	Oct 19	Italy, Girgenti	his wife
20736	Albanese	Michele Mr	1844	Jun 22	Italy, Noto & Catania	Italy, Noto & Catania
21527	Albanese	Paolo	1844	Aug 22	Italy, Girgenti	her son
36569	Albanese	Giov. Mr	1848	Jun 28	Italy, Girgenti	
40235	Albanese	Giuseppe	1849	Aug 25	Italy, Girgenti	
41478	Albanese	Salvatore	1850	Mar 9	Alexandria	

### Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude for the support and feedback of Dr. Charles J. Farrugia (National Archivist & CEO of NAM), Joseph Amodio (Assistant Archivist of NAM), Martin Hampton (Secretary, Friends of the National Archives of Malta) and Charles Said-Vassallo (maltagenealogy.com).

*(To be continued.)*

## Dr. JOSEF BUTTIGIEG AND HIS WORK IN THE FIELD OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Dan Brock

Dr. Josef “Jo” Buttigieg is a neurophysiologist in the Department of Biology at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada. He earned at PhD in neurophysiology, in 2009 with Dr. Colin Nurse at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. This was followed with a post-doctoral fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Michael Fehlings at the University Health Network in Toronto. Since September 2011, Dr. Buttigieg has been at the University of Regina where he is currently an assistant professor.

Canada is among the countries having the highest rate of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in the world. And Saskatchewan has the highest number of cases in the country. It's a disease that Dr. Buttigieg and his team is studying.



**Josef Buttigieg, Karin Rustad and Alex Ripplinger Are Part of the Team Developing a “Trojan Horse” Treatment for Multiple Sclerosis.**

MS is an autoimmune disease in which one’s immune system begins to think its own body is a foreign substance and starts to destroy it. Specifically, the disease attacks myelin, an insulating layer or sheath that forms around nerves, including those in the brain and spinal cord. This sheath allows electrical impulses to transmit quickly and efficiently along the nerve cells. The end result of destroying that insulation is that it causes the neurons to short circuit and then that leads to numbness in a limb, paralysis, cognitive and vision loss and, for many people, eventual death.

What Dr. Buttigieg and his team are working on is the development of a “Trojan horse” against MS.

The concept harks back to Greek mythology to the time of the Trojan War when the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse, pretended to abandon their assault on Troy and left the horse as an offering to Athena (goddess of war) which would make Troy impregnable. The horse was taken inside the city gates

and during the night the Greek warriors inside it emerged and opened the gates to let in the returned Greek army.

What Dr. Buttigieg and his team have developed is similar in concept. MS looks for a specific protein that's in the insulation of a person's neuron. Buttigieg's team have been experimenting with mice. In one experiment it gave the immune system of a mouse having MS that protein, but with a twist. Tied to the protein were two others, one of which kills the immune cell that is attacking the myelin.

The mouse in question could not move its hind legs or walk and had only partial movement of its front legs before beginning the treatment.



Four days after the above photograph was taken, the mouse could fully walk with all four legs after being treated with the "Trojan Horse" protein.



The team was giving the MS the protein that it wanted but what it didn't know was that there's a bomb hiding inside this protein. Once the cause of the problem was eliminated, the body then had an opportunity to repair itself and the team could see that the myelin sheath of the neurons had been repaired.

Since the project was begun in August 2018, the process has been repeated several times with mice being in severe stages of MS. Within a few weeks the mice have been starting to walk again.

With these promising results, Buttigieg hopes to have a clinical trial soon. First, the team plans to test the treatment on patients' blood. People who have multiple sclerosis have donated blood for the team to see how the immune system in the blood reacts to the proteins.

In early October of this year, Dr. Buttigieg said his "dream time" to start clinical trials would be tomorrow. But that depends on a number of things, he said, including support from the public, support from the government, and funding.

For those suffering from this disease or having loved ones or friends with MS, the clinical trials can't start soon enough.

### MALTA ABROAD—MELITA, MANITOBA\*

#### DAN BROCK

The town of Melita is located in southwestern Manitoba, 37 km (23 miles) east of the Saskatchewan border. Its current population is 1,042 (2016 census). The first recorded European settler was Charles West, in 1879. Its first post office was established in 1884.



**Postcard sent in July 1900 from Melita, Manitoba to Clinton, Ontario**

Reproduced by Dan Brock

The late Betty Fox, cancer advocacy champion and mother of the late Terry Fox, was raised in Melita.

The early inhabitants chose the name "Melita" for the town after hearing a Bible reading about St. Paul's ship wreck on the island of Malta. (Acts 28:1) "*Melita*" is the Latin word for "Malta," and was derived from the Greek word "*Melité*" for the island, meaning "honey-sweet," possibly owing to Malta's unique production of honey.

On the other hand, there are those who believe that Malta is derived from the Phoenician word "*Maleth*," meaning "a haven," in reference to Malta's many bays and coves.

*\*This is a slightly amended version of the article which appeared in The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter, Sept./Oct. 2011, [3]*

## MEET MRS. LESSIE ABELA

**Dan Brock**

One of those in attendance at the 2019 Maestro Paul Gauci Concert, held at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, Ontario, on the evening of Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> was Mrs. Leslie Abela.

Mrs. Abela is a daughter of the late Maestro Paul Gauci.



***Mrs. Lessie Abela with Dr. Raymond Xerri***

Paul Gauci immigrated to Canada from Cospicua, Malta in 1966 to be reunited with his five children. Within a few years, the Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto organized a marching band under the direction of Mro. Paul Gauci. "For three years this band performed for the community and at various MCST events. In 1971 the band members decided to branch out on their own and formed the now popular and successful Malta Band Club, Inc."

### **NICK PULIS: A UNIFYING FACTOR IN THE JUNCTION\***

**Kt. Cmdr. Frank Savona, O.S.J.**

That's how Chev. Nick Pulis, B.A., Ph.D. O.S.J. always wanted to be known, called, and remembered...just "NICK PULIS."

Though a bright, intelligent and highly educated man, the very fact that he honestly and genuinely considered himself one of the crowd, an ordinary person of no

consequence, manifestly shows an evangelical simplicity he cherished all his life – a simplicity that turned him into a true Christian, and hence, through his good works and love of neighbour, he spread Christ's message all around him.

A couple of weeks before he passed away, he told a number of relatives and friends surrounding his death-bed: "I have never had any worldly ambitions...I have never been attached to this world or any of its illusions...I look upon death as the beginning of life and not as its end."

And as if this spontaneous revelation of his inner self were not enough, sometime later, he asked a member of his immediate family to hand him the Summer issue of FORUM MELITENSE, and, slowly but steadily, he jotted down the following message on FORUM's large brown envelope: "September 1977 – Between the hours of 9 and 10 a.m. this month I will be in the next world where I will start a new life. I have endured much physical pain. I now await death happily and joyfully. I thank all my friends; and may they always remember me as Nick. Release this my last message for publication in FORMUM MELITENSE – Nick Pulis."

Mr. Nicholas Pulis was born on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 at the picturesque village of Siggiewi, Malta. On 6<sup>th</sup> January 1940, he married Josephine, nee Azzopardi who hailed from Rabat, Malta. He left to mourn his loss four children: Mrs. Doris Dimech, Anthony, Mrs. Carmen Lockhead, and Joseph; and two granddaughters: Brigida and Lisa Ann.

In Malta, Mr. Pulis worked for many years at the Cathedral in Mdina, and soon, he became very knowledgeable in its history and in that of the city itself, which up to the building of Valletta in 1566, was the capital city of the Island of Malta.

He came to Canada on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1950, and settled in Toronto in the Dundas Street West area, where he lived until his untimely demise. Full of life and initiative, he dedicated all his spare time to the betterment of the Maltese Community spread around its national church of St. Paul the Apostle.

It was at about this time that, with the help of four other compatriots and that of Mr. Patrick Cameron, Q.C., the lawyer of the MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO, he assisted in clearing newly arrived Maltese from the centre at Ajax, Ontario, where newcomers from Malta used to be temporarily placed. The conditions there, however, were such that trouble soon developed in the compound.

One of the greatest difficulties facing Maltese coming to Toronto, especially when emigration from Malta had become rather heavy, consisted chiefly in their finding board and lodging, as well as employment at the earliest possible time. This difficult situation of uprooted humans required people willing to sacrifice the comfort of their homes and their rest after a day's work, and

without ifs or buts, be up and doing to give a helping hand to their less fortunate brethren. Nick Pulis met the challenge with patriotic and humanitarian zest. Never has one man done so much for so many!

Even though this phase of his life bordered on the public domain, yet he had always insisted with me never to reveal the specific details of his outstanding endeavours during that period. I shall, therefore, refrain from dwelling any longer on this subject.

On the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Nick Pulis was one of the principal organizers of the Coronation Parade, in which the MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO fully participated.

He was already in his late forties or so, when he made up his mind to upgrade his education. Overcoming the time-factor problem which his employ for 26 years at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce presented, he managed to find time for his courses and successfully obtained his B.A., and finally, his Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) at the University of Toronto. It was only after he had passed away that the majority of the Maltese Community became aware of his scholarly achievements so late in life. In the circumstances, the adage "It's never too late to start!" was once more proven correct.

In recognition of his selfless dedication for the welfare of others, the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem \*Knights of Malta\* conferred on him the coveted title of KNIGHT. Chev. Nick Pulis was officially invested as Knight of Malta on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1968 by the Rev. Fr. Laurence Bonavia, O.F.M., P.E.P., O.S.J., at the Maltese Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Toronto of which Fr. Bonavia was the pastor. On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1977, Baron Michael Vella Haber, the Grand Prior of the International Order of St. John of Jerusalem \*Knight of Malta\* (World Headquarters, at Gzira, Malta), bestowed on Kt. Nick Pulis the rank and title of Knight Commander of Justice, and appointed him head of the Commandery of Toronto.

Unity, co-operation and understanding among all Maltese organizations in Toronto and its vicinity seemed to have been his most vehement aspiration in life. In that view, he made it a point to become life member of several associations, notably of the MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO, the MELITA SOCCER CLUB, the MALTESE PROGRAMME FAN CLUB & the MALTESE UNITY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, Inc.

In other various ways, Nick Pulis gave full support, practically, to all the Maltese Organizations he knew. To some he presented either the Maltese or Canadian flag; to others who requested, he donated a standard displaying the official emblem of the respective organization. To the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, he gave, among other items, the cape and

scepter of Miss Malta of Toronto.

As a great believer in the importance of the Maltese press for our immigrants, Nick Pulis was a staunch supporter of FORUM MELITENSE and one of its exceptional collaborators and benefactors.



**Kt. Cmdr. Nick Pulis, B.A., Ph.D., O.S.L.**

Thus, Nick Pulis became a unifying factor in the Junction [the main intersection of which is Dundas Street West and Keele Street] and elsewhere in Canada and the U.S.A., and by the very fact a leader in his own right of the Maltese community.

When Dr. Chev. Nick Pulis breathed his last on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1977, many were those who sorrowfully expressed their admiration for him in simple but profoundly meaningful terms: "The Maltese Community has indeed lost a corner-stone in its structure very hard to replace in the future."

And now that Nick Pulis is no longer physically with us, we should all feel it our duty to heed Saint Ambrose's advice: "We have loved him during life: let us not abandon him until we have conducted him by our prayers into the house of the Lord."

*\*This article appeared in Forum Melitense, vol. 3, no. 4 (Autumn 1977), 18-20. It's believed that Nick Pulis came to Canada by way of Halifax as no record of his arrival has been found. His wife and three eldest children arrived in New York Harbor, on the Nea Hellas, August 13, 1953.*

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

**Dan Brock**

### The Bay Area, California

#### Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco.

On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Committee held its Annual Mystery Trip.

The very popular Family Pasta Bingo took place on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

A bus trip to Thunder Valley Casino is planned for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Maltese Historical Society

The Society held a Bocce Ball Tournament at Orange Memorial Park in South San Francisco on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

### Maltese Heritage Association

The Association and the Hon. Consul General of Malta, Louis Vella, once again represented Malta at the Italian Heritage Parade which started from Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

### British Columbia

Joseph Camilleri, age 69, on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, became the first Maltese Canadian to ever finish the Victoria Marathon.



**Joseph Camilleri  
after Completing the Victoria Marathon**

He was second in his age category with a time of 3:25:58. This was more than four minutes faster than

his first ever marathon, the Vancouver Marathon, in 2017.

At Mile 0, on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Joseph participated in his ninth consecutive Terry Fox Run.

Each week around eight volunteers work together with the Run Director to bring a safe and enjoyable event to Clover Point, Victoria, BC. Some volunteers have their favourite role, others like to do something different each time and others are just happy to be where they are needed most.

As of July 2019, Joseph Camilleri had volunteered at an incredible 52 Clover Point parkrun events. He has his own section of Clover Point parkrun named after him, "Joseph's Point," this being the first marshal point on the route. Joseph also takes wonderful photos which are shared on the organization's social media pages and sent far and wide. He volunteers as a marshal and/or photographer and sometimes runs parkrun, too. By July he had an incredible age-graded percentage of 83.88!



**Joseph Camilleri at the Clover Point Parkrun**

In the words of Carmen Ronsisvalle Oake: "Joseph Camilleri we're very proud of you."

### The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

Members of the Maltese community, headed by Consul General Dr. Raymond Xerri and Joseph Sherri, President of the Maltese Canadian Federation, clearly stated their case at the consultation meeting held at the Swansea Town Hall in Toronto on the evening of Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> for Runnymede Healthcare Centre's proposed 200-bed long-term care facility. What the Maltese community is seeking is that a minimum of 20 beds be allocated specifically for elderly Maltese residents in this facility to be built next to the existing building in the heart of the "Malta Village" near The Junction. Some 19,000 members of the Maltese community currently live in this area.



**Joe Sherri and Dr. Raymond Xerri at the Consultation Meeting**

A delegation, consisting of the Consul General, the President of the Maltese-Canadian Federation and more than a dozen elderly Maltese Canadians attended a first meeting, a few days later, to determine the design of the new 200-bed, long-term care facility. The delegation argued that 20 beds specifically allocated to Maltese Canadians are urgently needed to help alleviate the dire need of long-term care within “Little Malta” or “Malta Village.”



**Some of Those in Attendance at the First Meeting**

On Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> the Toronto City Council approved the granting of the building permit



**Toronto City Council Approves the Project**

The Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri, has assisted two Canadian companies and a number of comic enthusiasts to make arrangements to visit MaltaComics.com in Malta, a growing niche with big potential in the Maltese Economy.



**The Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (MCBNA)** is holding a Networking Event at the Clubhouse Eventspace in Etobicoke on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The honoured guests include the High Commissioner to Canada Keith Azzopardi and the Consul General Dr. Raymond Xerri.

The MCBNA creates opportunities to put Maltese Canadian Entrepreneurs, Professionals, Businesses and Young up-and-comers in touch. It regularly hosts social functions to provide a platform for closer liaison within the Maltese Canadian Community.

**Fr. Charles Michael Grech, OFM** was installed as pastor of St. Frances de Chantal Parish, Toronto, by Bishop John Boissoneau on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Father Grech with the Consul General of Malta**

**Malta Band Club**



**Executive of the Malta Band Club with the Consul General**  
**(Seated l to r) Tony Vella (president), Dr. Raymond Xerri, Lelli Grech, Carmen Scicluna**  
**(Standing l to r) Tony Frendo, Virginia Church, Spiro Tanti, Fred Portelli, Joe Naxxari**

The 2019 Maestro Paul Gauci Concert was held at the Club on the evening of Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. In the words of Dr. Raymond Xerri who has a long association with the bands on both the islands of Gozo and Malta, the performance this evening was “one of the most fascinating band concerts I ever attended.”

The Band, a community-based concert band, was established in the late 1960s. It consists of volunteer musicians of varied backgrounds and ages who perform concerts throughout the year at the Club’s facilities.

The Band is currently under the direction of Maestro Nick Arigo who has been with it since 2009. The theme of Saturday evening’s performance was “Our Tribute to Tinseltown.”



**The Malta Band under the Direction of Maestro Nick Arigo**



**Joanne and Christine Camilleri Are the Dancers**

The Band’s next performances are the Christmas Candlelight Concert, Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and the St. Paul’s Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

The Malta Band Club will hold a Memorial Bake Sale on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Another trip to Casino Fallsview is planned for Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Melita Soccer Club**

The Canucks, the only Maltese-Canadian soccer team in Canada, ended their season in fourth place in

League 4, consisting of 10 teams.



**The Consul General Poses with the Canucks**

A Halloween Party was celebrated at the Club on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. This included a dinner, dancing a costume competition and a cash bar. Music was provided by a DJ.

**Memorial Service**

*For Deceased Members  
Relatives and Friends*

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Upper Hall

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Plan to attend !**

St. Paul the Apostle  
Parish Community

**Mass**  
at Assumption Cemetery  
on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019  
at 3:00 p.m.

A bus trip to Casino Rama is planned for Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Call Mary Tanti at 416-622-6819 for further information.



*Join us at the*  
**Melita Soccer Club**  
**Members'**  
**Christmas**  
**Celebration**

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**RIZZO Banquet Halls**

1941 Albion Road, Etobicoke  
(3 blocks west of Highway 27)

- Cocktails • Dinner • Dancing • Open Bar •
- Music by DJ Connection*

MEMBERS \$ 55.00  
GUESTS \$ 60.00

For tickets and information  
please call **416-763-5317**

Email: [msec@melitsoccerclub.com](mailto:msec@melitsoccerclub.com)

Tickets must be picked up by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019



**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Upper Hall**

- Review financial statements.
- Discuss other Club business.
- Election of the Committee.

**Gozo Club**

The Club is holding Festa Calypso 2019 on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Malta Band Club.

**FESTA CALYPSO 2019**  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 Dinner: Antipasto; Pasta; Salad; Roast Beef; Dessert.  
 Sweets; Tea; Coffee.

Live Entertainment by 'Enzo Gusman'



**enzo gusman**

At the  
**MALTA BAND CLUB**  
 5745 Coopers Ave.,  
 Mississauga On. (905 890 8507)  
**Price: \$30.00 (Cash Bar)**  
 for tickets call or email:  
 Paul Portelli: 416 231 9710 Angelo Grech: 905 625 6789  
 Doris Galea: 1 519 763 8552 George Haber: 416 635 7416  
[gozoclub@gmail.com](mailto:gozoclub@gmail.com)

**ORGANIZED BY THE GOZO CLUB**



The profit left for the parish from the event was \$5,286. The Children's Christmas Party will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>. It will begin with a play presented by the children of the parish. The Christmas Concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Festival of Lights will take place on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

Photos and posters courtesy of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta in Canada

**London, Ontario**

October's luncheon will be held at the Marconi Club on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Raymond Xerri, the Consul General of Malta in Canada will be in attendance.

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY OF THE LONDON AREA**

**When: Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**  
 Preceded by the recitation of the Rosary at 1:30 p.m.

**Where: Holy Family Mausoleum, St. Peter's Cemetery**

**For whom: All deceased relatives of members of the Maltese Canadian community of the London area, especially those who have died in the past year.**

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

The **Dinner Dance** commemorating the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish was held in the Parish Hall on the evening of Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Photos from the Dinner Dance (see also next column)**

**KINNIE, TWISTEES, KUNSERVA  
GALLETTI, BITTER LEMON**  
will be delivered to the London area beginning  
**November 2019**  
for further details and placing your order call  
**Joe Sherri 416-571-3944**  
see also  
<https://www.rightchoicefooddistributors.com/>

### Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

A ravioli dinner was held on the premises on the evening of Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Another is planned for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A ross il-forn dinner will be held on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Children's Christmas Party will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Metropolitan Detroit

#### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The Club held a Halloween Party on the evening of Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

It will be holding its 40<sup>th</sup> annual Miss Malta Pageant & Gala Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB**  
Proudly Presents  
**The 40th Annual  
Miss Malta  
Pageant &  
Gala Dinner Dance**  
**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Doors Open 5:00pm • Dinner at 6:00pm • Pageant After Dinner  
Information \$25.00 Per Person • Cash Bar • **Reserve Early**  
Ticket Deadline: Thursday, October 24  
For Tickets Call Paul (313) 561-0522  
**Joe Spiteri will be  
the Emcee and DJ  
for the event!**  
**Winner Prize: TRIP TO MALTA or SCHOLARSHIP MONEY**  
**2nd Place Prize: Jewelry**  
**All Contestants Will Receive a Personalized Keepsake**  
Contestants who wish to enter this Pageant  
please submit an entry form or call Rita (313) 400-1134 or Josephine (313) 587-3334 for more info

A Remembrance Day Mass/Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### New York City

Most of the Maltese-born currently living in New York, and mainly from Gozo, arrived some 30-40 years ago. With their children and grandchildren, it is estimated

that some 40,000 persons of Maltese birth and blood live in the New York area.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working hard at the diplomatic level for Malta to be elected for two years to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. The Government is also looking for a more suitable and spacious place for Malta's mission to the UN. Malta's current embassy, originally a house, was purchased in the 1970s and is on the other side of New York rather than within a one km radius of the UN headquarters as are most of the world's embassies.

### Maltese Center NYC

While at the open house held on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat spoke about plans for Air Malta to start operating flights to New York and promised that he would be back to NYC next year. (See front cover)

A bingo was held in the Lower Hall on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The next Sunday bingos are scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

His Excellency Carmelo Inguanez, the Ambassador of Malta to the United Nations, visited the Centre on the morning of Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

The annual walk for Pink October (breast cancer awareness) also took place at Central Park on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. In the evening Oktoberfest was celebrated back at the Centre.

The Maltese Halloween Party was held at the Center on the evening of Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Music was by D J Chuck. There was a cash bar and a best costume contest. The Children's Halloween Party was held at the Center the next day.

All Souls Memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Centre by Fr. Anthony Saliba, the Centre's chaplain, on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MEETS TO DISCUSS PRESSING COMMUNITY ISSUES

Issues, ranging from teaching the Maltese language outside of Malta to the possibility of a birthright program for young people to visit Malta, were discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CLMA) held October 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> in Valletta.

The CMLA is comprised of 15 representatives from Maltese communities abroad, including Canada and the United States and is chaired (ex-officio) by Carmelo Abela, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion. Members are selected for three-year terms and meet once a year in Malta.

Canadians are represented by Sue Schembri from British Columbia and Branden Azzopardi from Ontario and individuals from the United States by Claudia M. Caruana from New York and Angelo Grima from Washington, D.C.



**First Day of the CMLA Meeting Held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Valletta**



**Formal Group Photo of Delegates  
with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion and Chairperson of the CMLA  
and the Prime Minister**

**(l to r) Angelo Grima (US), Dennis Muniglia (France), Brandon Azzopardi (Canada), Antonella Berry-Brincat (UK), Marie-Louise Previtera (Australia), Mario M. Sammut (Australia), Edwige Borg (Australia), Sue Schembri (Canada), Carmelo Abela (Chairperson), Joseph Muscat (Prime Minister), Shane Delia (Australia), Stephen Gatt (Australia), Emanuel Camilleri (Australia), Joseph A. Xerri (Council Secretary), Claudia Caruana (US) and Josephine Ann Cutajar (Malta).  
Absent. Anita Grillo (Middle East), Alex Grima (Belgium)**

*(courtesy of Malta Department of Information)*

The Council was established by means of Act XX of 2011 following the Emigration Conventions organized in 1969, 2000, and 2010 that recommended the

establishment of a council composed of representatives of Maltese communities and others with the aim of promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living

abroad.

According to its mandate, CLMA represents the Maltese Diaspora in meetings with the Maltese government and public authorities. It monitors the standard of living of these Maltese communities abroad and works to strengthen the links among them and the political, cultural, economic and social aspects of Malta. At a press conference held immediately after the conclusion of the meeting, Foreign Minister Abela referred to the several issues that have been discussed: the review of Act XX of 2011 to regulate the Council; changing culture programs; registration of property which the Maltese living outside the Maltese Islands have; the subtitles for Maltese productions; matters relating to Maltese identity; ways on how to better engage with the Maltese Diaspora; and the establishment of Regional Committees.

“The Maltese Council for Maltese that live abroad also can be considered as the official vehicle carrying ideas that promote the rights and interests outside Malta, with a view that, where possible, to be implemented by the Central Government,” Dr. Abela stated.

Minister Abela also spoke about the concept of a global Malta in a globalised world, as the way to look at the Maltese diaspora in the coming years.

He stressed: “There is no ‘us’ and ‘them’, our interests and theirs, but a common interest to boost Malta’s uniqueness.”

Below is a summary of the CLMA’s work during this session:

#### **Outcomes include:**

- Teaching of the Maltese language will soon be available online, through the creation of an online digital platform, a project which is being carried out through the Ministry for Education and Employment which has now passed into the tender preparation phase (time frame for implementation end of 2020);
- English subtitles for some of the production by the Public Broadcasting Services were provided. PBS is working on new productions which will also have English subtitles available;
- The completion of a Code of Ethics for members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, and
- The launch of Regional Committees.

#### **Matters discussed**

- The review of Act XX of 2011 to regulate the Council;
- Exchanging culture programs;
- Registration of property which the Maltese living outside the Maltese Islands have;
- Subtitles of Maltese broadcast productions, including the news;
- Matters relating to Maltese identity,

- Ways how to better engage with Maltese Diaspora;
- The implementation of Regional Committees.

#### **Decisions and Outcomes**

- **Cultural Exchange Programme for the Maltese Diaspora** –

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion will act as a liaison between Maltese Living Abroad and the Arts Council Malta and its sister institutions, in an effort to import and export cultural projects.

- **Registration of Property Online with the Planning Authority** –

To request the Planning Authority to provide for a system through which Maltese living abroad will be informed formally about any development application on property in which they have a vested right.

- **English Subtitles of Maltese Media for overseas distribution** –

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) will be considering the proposal of the subtitling of weekly news in English (which is sent to Australia and Canada) as well as in French.

- **e-ID to Maltese Diaspora to access info.mygo / ID Card for Maltese Living Abroad** –

Identity Malta will be considering a means of providing Maltese Living Abroad with access to Servizz.gov, possible through a digital ID.

- **Citizenship Law Amendments** –

Identity Malta will consider questions raised during the discussion and revert back to us.

- **Heritage Malta Senior Passport** –

Maltese living abroad visiting Malta can apply for this passport by visiting the local Council accompanied by a relative, presenting their passport (visitor’s) and with the relative consent using his/her address.

#### **Updating ACT XX of 2011** –

All stake holders, including the Opposition, will be involved in the review of the Act.

- **Establishing a system to help Maltese Living Abroad who were affected by the close of Maltese Bank offices in their countries** –

The Bank of Valletta representative informed the Council that the Bank will reopen, upon request, all accounts of Maltese citizens living in Malta who were born in Malta and hold a valid Maltese passport. The Bank has no choice but to ask for all compliance documentation on a regular basis from their clients for the latter’s accounts to remain active

with the Bank.

- **Commemorating the Maltese Emigrants** – The Council decided on considering the proposal of a monument for commemorating migrants, possibly on the Exodus wall.
- **Maltese Birthright Programme** – The Council will consider any specific proposals from members about the setting up of a Maltese Birthright Programme for providing Maltese youth living abroad to visit Malta to connect with their roots.
- **Suggestions from Committee members how to approach the younger generation (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> generation) being culture, arts, etc.)** – The main suggestion was to set up a website and a social media platform. This proposal is under consideration. For the time being, the Council agreed to keep the platform within the Ministry's own website and consider placing it in a more visible place in the near future. With regard to the setting up of a separate website for the Maltese Living Abroad, an expression of interest to interested suppliers would have to be issued according to government procedures.
- **Digital platform for the teaching of Maltese language)**– Council was updated about this platform; implementation is in an advanced stage.

## ISLAND OF SUNSHINE AND HISTORY

### Henry E. Leeks

The mighty old walls that withstood the onslaught of her enemies so many times echo her strength and victories, and at the same time are a memorial to the Great Lady's dead—her defenders.

The blue waters that surround her on all sides mirror her every image – strength, tenacity, faith, hope, grandeur and serene beauty.

She is history itself with temples even older than the Pyramids of Egypt.

A shining jewel in the middle of the Sea, she beckons all those, who would come in peace, to the friendly shelters of her magnificent harbours.

At noon the heat of the sun lulls her to sleep Her sun-drenched buildings and streets are still and quiet. It is "siesta time" – a time of peacefulness and stillness broken only by the soft and gentle song of the birds.

The gentle breeze off her shiny blue waters gives her relief from the tremendous heat of the noon-day sun.

This was, this is and will always be...MALTA... The Island of Sunshine and History. The old fortress of the Mediterranean which will soon awaken from her mid-day sleep to once again become a hub of activity.

*Editor's note: The late Henry Leeks, the eldest of four children, came to London, Ontario, with his mother and siblings, via the Saturnia to New York, in December 1949. David George Leeks, their husband and father, had immigrated to Canada, on board the Vulcania, in June 1948, and had purchased a house in London by this time.*

## MALTA'S 5<sup>TH</sup> EMIGRANTS CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

'Keeping Connected'--A convention for Maltese Living Abroad is scheduled for October 5-10, 2020 in Malta. Prior conventions held in Malta focusing on Maltese emigrant concerns took place in 1969, 2000, 2010 and 2015.

Preliminary information released from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a press conference at the conclusion of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad meeting last month, focuses on a format, different from prior conventions, that will include workshops on ways the interests of the Maltese diaspora abroad can be protected.

Convention planners also are looking at programming sessions on ways second, third, and fourth generation Maltese can become more involved in celebrating and learning more about their heritage.

A cultural program of Maltese art and literature also is being planned.

The call for proposals/presentations has been issued with a deadline for submissions set for January 10, 2020.

The actual venue in Malta for the convention has yet to be announced.

For more information about the convention, e-mail: [Convention2020.mftp@gov.mt](mailto:Convention2020.mftp@gov.mt)

*Editor's note: I was asked by Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada, to disseminate the following forms through this journal. (see below)*

*It is hoped that a good contingent from Canada and the United States will be attending this Convention. If you plan to attend, see the three-page form below (pages 21-23) and follow the instructions.*

*If you are from Canada, kindly let the Consulate General's Office know so that the Consul General is aware of who is planning to attend.*

First Notice – 2020CONV

**5<sup>th</sup> Convention for Maltese Living Abroad  
'Keeping Connected'  
Participants' Form – Expression of intent of participation  
Date of submission: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (12.00hrs CET)**

**Email:** [Convention2020.mftp@gov.mt](mailto:Convention2020.mftp@gov.mt)    **Postal Address:** The Director  
Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese  
Living Abroad  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio,  
Merchant's Street, Valletta – VLT 1171, MALTA

**SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION: Do you belong to an association/organization?**

YES     NO

If Yes – Name the association/organization \_\_\_\_\_

In a few words, please note down those specific aspects of the Convention you are most likely to be interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to present a paper for the Convention?**

YES     NO

If Yes - Please indicate the title of the paper, you wish to present<sup>1</sup>:

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Please be guided by the Criteria for presentation of papers under Annex I

First Notice – 2020CONV

**In not more than 250 words, please provide a short abstract to your paper:**

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**Participation in Art Exhibition<sup>2</sup>:** YES  NO

Please describe your interest/contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Participation in Literary Symposium:** YES  NO

Please describe your interest/contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please indicate your language proficiency:**

**Maltese:** Excellent  Very Good  Good  Fair

**English:** Excellent  Very Good  Good  Fair

**Please note down any specific questions or comments you may have:**

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<sup>2</sup> Details of culture events will be communicated at a later stage

First Notice – 2020CONV

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**Annex 1 – Criteria for presentation of papers**

1. The topic of the presentations must be linked to the overall theme of the Convention, 'Keeping Connected'.
2. Topics must relate specifically to the following:
  - i. Challenges faced by the Maltese Diaspora;
  - ii. Engaging the Maltese diaspora in the promotion of Enterprise, Trade and Foreign Investment;
  - iii. Digital platforms and social media to support diaspora engagement;
  - iv. Maltese culture, heritage and tradition. The way forward
3. Preference will be given to presentations taking a trans-national and forward-looking view.
4. Participants are invited to submit an abstract of their paper (as indicated in the form) in Maltese or in English. The full text will be requested following the successful selection of abstracts.
5. Selected papers will not be delivered during the 2-days Convention sessions, but published or digitised as deemed fit by the organising Committee.

**MEET THE MALTA BAKE SHOP'S OLDEST CUSTOMER**

**Dan Brock**

On Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Raymond Xerri had an opportunity to chat with Mr. Kalcidonju Tanti at the Malta Bake Shop in Toronto's "Malta Village" on Dundas Street.



**Kalcidonju Tanti (right) with Dr. Raymond Xerri**

Tanti, a widower, said he never misses a day coming to the Bake Shop for a coffee and pastizz and regards his fellow customers as family to whom he speaks "and offers helpful life wisdom and guidance."

He remembers when the nearby St. Paul the Apostle Church was but a basement church.

Tanti, now 91 years of age, was born on October 2, 1928, in Rabat, Malta.

He boarded the Greek ship the *Nea Hellas*, in the Grand Harbour on Tuesday, April 20, 1954 and disembarked at Halifax on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He then travelled by train to Toronto.

"Uncle Calci" recalls that he was not scheduled to leave on the *Nea Hellas*, but someone cancelled out and the police went to his door on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> to ask if he were willing to depart for Canada the next day.

Such sudden change of plans were not uncommon at the time, I know of an entire family who came to London, Ontario from Malta and who had less than 24 hours to finish packing and get on the ship which was leaving the next day.

## MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

### Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto

[www.festasangorg.ca](http://www.festasangorg.ca)

### Gozo Club Toronto

### Lehen Malti

<https://www.omnityv.ca › shows › lehen-malti>

### Malta Band Club

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9  
905-890-8507

[www.maltabandclub.com](http://www.maltabandclub.com)

### Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4  
519-974-6719

Opening hours: Saturday 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

### Maltese American Benevolent Society

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216  
313-961-8393

<http://detroitmaltese.com>

Opening hours:

Thursday & Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-846-7077

[info@malteseamericanclub.org](mailto:info@malteseamericanclub.org)

### Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

924 El Camino Real South, San Francisco, CA 94080  
650-871-4611

[contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org](mailto:contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)

Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month only)

Thursday 5: p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday 5:00 – 1:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

### Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

### Maltese Canadian Business & Networking Association, (Toronto)

### Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

### Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex  
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054

### Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102  
718-728-9893

[info@maltesecenter.com](mailto:info@maltesecenter.com)

Opening hours:

Wednesday and Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

### Maltese Culture Club of Durham

289-939-8377

[mmmpastizzi@gmail.com](mailto:mmmpastizzi@gmail.com)

### Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

[maltsheritageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maltsheritageassociation@gmail.com)

### Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

### Melita Soccer Club

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4  
416-763-5317

Opening hours:

Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054

[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)

[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)

### St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)



The Façade of the Maltese Center NYC  
as It Appeared in 2007